

A monthly magazine devoted to the collecting, preservation and literature of the old-time dime and nickel novels, libraries and popular story papers. Published by Ralph F. Cummings, Box 75, Fisherville, Mass., U. S. A. Price \$2.00 per year

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Vol. 17

June 1949

No. 201

## BUFFALO BILL NOVELS IN PAPER-BACK BOOK FORMAT By J. Edward Leithead

FAR WEST, the original 15-cent Buffalo Bill library published by Street & Smith, started about 1907, ran to 211 numbers, as did the reprint BUFFALO BILL BORDER STORIES which followed. FAR WEST had 17 numbers, from #27 to 43 inclusive, with the name of Buffalo Bill left out of the titles, as shown below in list at the left. These 17 were all re-issued in BORDER STORIES and GREAT WESTERN, using Buffalo Bill's name in the titles, shown in list at the right. No. 1 of both FAR WEST and BORDER STORIES was "Buffalo Bill, the Border King," but otherwise the arrangement of titles was different in these two libraries, and a complete check against BORDER STORIES isn't possible unless one has the 17 FAR WESTS listed below to compare with the 17 BORDER STORIES, book by book. It's fair to assume that BORDER STORIES No. 7, "Buffalo Bill's Iron Grip," is FAR WEST No. 29, "In a Grip of Iron," and that BORDER STORIES No. 47, "Buffalo Bill's Traitor Guide," is FAR WEST No. 32, "The Traitor Guide." But aside from these two, it's anyone's guess how the rest of the 17 issues match up.

#### Far West Library

- 27 The Stranger in Camp
- 28 The Fate of the Enemy
- 29 In a Grip of Iron
- 30 A Leaf from the Past
- 31 A Cry for Mercy
- 32 The Traitor Guide
- 33 On the Edge of Doom
- 34 A Hero in Buckskin
- 35 A Dead Man's Warning
- 36 The Man Without Honor
- of the Man Without Honor
- 37 When the Coil Tightens
- 38 By Lightning's Flash
- 39 A Plea for the Enemy
- 40 Pards of the Plains
- 41 When Fate Plays Pranks
- 42 A Dash for Life.
- 43 Out of the Jaws of Death

### Buffalo Bill Border Stories and Great Western

Buffalo Bill's Warning

Buffalo Bill at Bay

Buffalo Bill's Iron Grip

Buffalo Bill's Buckskin Pards

Buffalo Bill and the Gold King

Buffalo Bill's Traitor Guide

Buffalo Bill's Bonanza

Buffalo Bill's Swoop

Buffalo Bill's One-armed Pard

Buffalo Bill and the Doomed Dozen

Buffalo Bill's Spy Trailer

Buffalo Bill's Honor

Buffalo Bill's Body Guard

Buffalo Bill's Brand

Buffalo Bill, Deadshot

Buffalo Bill's Buckskin Bravoes

Buffalo Bill's Big Four

Following is a complete check list of BUFFALO BILL BORDER STORIES and GREAT WESTERN LIBRARY "Buffalo Bill" titles. The last issue of GREAT WESTERN was No. 156. Since Nos. 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25 of GREAT WESTERN were Diamond Dick titles, actually only 143 Buffalo Bills were reprinted from the BORDER STORIES, out of a possible 211.

	ffalo Bill rder Stories	Great Wester Librar		Buffalo Bill's Queer Find #74
1	Duffelo Dill +	he Border King #4		Buffalo Bill's Blind Lead #75 Buffalo Bill's Resolution #76
2		Raid #4		
3		Bravery #4		Buffalo Bill, the Avenger #77
4		Trump Card #4		Buffalo Bill's Pledged Pard . #78
5		Pledge #4		Buffalo Bill's Weird Warning #79 Buffalo Bill's Wild Ride #80
6		Vengeance #4		- 11
7		Iron Grip #4		Buff. Bill's Redskin Stampede 81
8		Capture #4		Buffalo Bill's Mine Mystery #82 Buffalo Bill's Gold Hunt #83
9		Danger Line . #4		Buffalo Bill's Daring Dash #84
10		Comrades #4		Buffalo Bill on Hand #85
11		Reckoning #5		Buffalo Bill's Alliance #86
12		Warning #5	1 74	Buffalo Bill's Relentless Foe #87
13		t Bay #5		Buffalo Bill's Midnight Ride #88
14		Buckskin Pards #5		Buffalo Bill's Chivalry #89
15		Brand #5		Buffalo Bill's Girl Pard #90
16		Honor #		Buffalo Bill's Private War #91
17		Phantom Hunt #		Buffalo Bill's Diamond Mine #92
18		Fight with Fire #		42.
19		Danite Trail #	8 81	Buffalo Bill's Woman Foe #94
20.	Buffalo Bill's	Ranch Riders #1		Buffalo Bill's Ruse #95
21	Buffalo Bill's	Death Trail #1	2 83	Buffalo Bill's Pursuit #96
22	Buffalo Bill's	Trackers #1	4 84	Buffalo Bill's Hidden Gold #97
23	Buffalo Bill's	Mid-air Flight #1		Buffalo Bill in Mid-air #98
24		Ambassador #1		Buffalo Bill's Queer Mission #99
25		Air Voyage #2		Buffalo Bill's Verdict #100
26		Secret Mission #2		Buffalo Bill's Ordeal #101
27		Long Trail #2		Buffalo Bill's Camp Fires . #102
28		gainst Odds #2		Buffalo Bill's Iron Nerve #103
29		Hot Chase #5		Buffalo Bill's Rival #104
30		Redskin Ally . #5		Buffalo Bill's Lone Hand #105
31		Treasure Trove #5 Hidden Foes . #5		Buffalo Bill's Sacrifice #106 Buffalo Bill's Thunderbolt . #107
33		Crack Shot #5		Buffalo Bill's Black Fortune #108
34		Close Call #6		Buffalo Bill's Wild Work #109
35		Double Surprise 3		Buffalo Bill's Yellow Trail . #110
36		Ambush #6		Buffalo Bill's Treasure Train 111
37		Outlaw Hunt . #6		Buffalo Bill's Bowie Duel #112
38		Border Duel . #3		11.
39		Bid for Fame #2		11.
40	Buffalo Bill's	Triumph #3	5 102	11.
41		Spy Trailer #6		Buffalo Bill's Big Surprise #116
42		Death Call #3		Buffalo Bill's Barricade #117
43		Body Guard #3		Buffalo Bill's Test #118
44		Still Hunt #3		Buffalo Bill's Powwow #119
45		he Doomed Dozen ?		Buffalo Bill's Stern Justice #120
46		Prairie Scout #3		Buff. Bill's Mysterious Friend 121
47		Traitor Guide #3		Buffalo Bill and the Boomers 122
48		Bonanza #2		Buffalo Bill's Panther Fight 123
49 50		Swoop #2 nd the Gold King 3		B Bill and the Overland Mail 124 B Bill on the Deadwood Trail 125
51		Deadshot #6		Buffalo Bill in Apache Land 126
52		Buckskin Bravoes 6		Buffao Bill's Blindfold Duel 127
53		Big Four #6		B Bill and the Lone Camper 128
54		One-Armed Pard 6		Buffalo Bill's Merry War #129
55		Race for Life #6		Buffalo Bill's Star Play #130
56		Return #6		Buffalo Bill's War Cry #131
57		Conquest #7		B B on Black Panther's Trail 132
58		the Rescue . #7		Buffalo Bill's Slim Chance #133
59		Beautiful Foe . #7		Buffalo Bill Besieged #134
60	Buffalo Bill's	Perilous Task #7	3 122	Buf. Bill's Bandit Round-up 135

Jun	e 1949 THE RO	UNDU	JP Page 51
123	Buffalo Bill's Surprise Party 136	167	Buffalo Bill's Dangerous Duty
124	Buffalo Bill's Lightning Raid 137	168	Buffalo Bill and the Talking Sta-
125	Buffalo Bill in Mexico #138		tue
126	Buffalo Bill's Traitor Foe . #139	169	Buffalo Bill Between Two Fires
127	Buffalo Bill's Tireless Chase 140	170	Buffalo Bill and the Giant Apache
128	Buffalo Bill's Boy Bugler #141	171	Buffalo Bill's Best Bet
129		172	Buffalo Bill's Blockhouse Siege
130	Buffalo Bill's Record Jump #143	173	Buffalo Bill's Fight for Right
131	Buffalo Bill in the Land of Dread	174	Buffalo Bill's Sad Tidings
	Not reprinted	175	Buffalo Bill and "Lucky" Benson
132	Buffalo Bill's Tangled Clew #144	176	Buffalo Bill Among the Sioux
133		177	Buffalo Bill's Mystery Box
	Not reprinted	178	Buffalo Bill's Worst Tangle
134		179	Buffalo Bill's Clean Sweep
135	Buffalo Bill and the Devil Bird	180	Buffalo Bill's Texas Tangle
	Not reprinted	181	Buffalo Bill and the Nihilists
136		182	Buffalo Bill's Emigrant Trail
. 0.15	Not reprinted	183	Buffalo Bill at Close Quarters
137	Buffalo Bill Entrapped	184	Buff, Bill and the Cattle Thieves
- 00	Not reprinted	185	Buffalo Bill at Cimaron Bar
138	Buffalo Bill's Totem Trail	186	Buffalo Bill's Ingenuity
- 00	Not reprinted	187	Buffalo Bill on a Cold Trail
139		188	Buffalo Bill's Red Hot Totem
140	Buffalo Bill's Determination	189	Buffalo Bill Under a War Cloud
4 14	Not reprinted	190	Buffalo Bill and the Prophet
141	Buffalo Bill's Battle Axe	191	Buff, Bill and the Red Renegade
1 10	Not reprinted	192	Buffalo Bill's Mailed Fist
142	Buffalo Bill's Game with Fate	193	Buffalo Bill's Round Up
1.40	Not reprinted Buffalo Bill's Comanche Raid	194	Buffalo Bill's Death Message Buffalo Bill's Redskin Disguise
140	Not reprinted	195 196	Buffalo Bill, the Whirlwind
144		197	Buffalo Bill in Death Valley
177	Not reprinted	198	Buffalo Bill and the Magic But-
145	Buffalo Bill's Lucky Shot	100	ton
140	Not reprinted	199	Buffalo Bill's Friend in Need
146	Buffalo Bill's Sloux Friends	200	Buffalo Bill with General Custer
	Not reprinted	201	Buffalo Bill's Timely Meeting
147		202	Buffalo Bill and the Skeleton
	Not reprinted		Scout
148		203	Buffalo Bill's Flag of Truce
149	Buffalo Bill and the Red Hand	204	Buffalo Bill's Pacific Power
	Not reprinted	205	Buffalo Bill's Impersonator
150		206	Buffalo Bill and the Red Mar-
151		200	auders
	Not reprinted	207	Buffalo Bill's Long Run
152	The state of the s	208	Buffalo Bill and Red Dove
	Not reprinted	209	Buffalo Bill on the Box
153	Buffalo Bill Corralled #149	210	Buffalo Bill's Brave Partner
	Buff Bill's Waif of the West 150	211	Buffalo Bill's Strange Task
155	Buffalo Bill's Wizard Pard #151		
	Buffalo Bill and Hawkeye #152		
157	Buffalo Bill and Grizzly Dan 153		NEWSY NEWS
158	Buffalo Bill's Ghost Play . #154		by Ralph F. Cummings
150	Duffalo Dill'e Lost Prisoner 155		

159 Buffalo Bill's Lost Prisoner 155

160 Buf Bill and the Klan of Kan 156

162 Buffalo Bill's Lassoed Spectre

163 Buffalo Bill and the Wanderers

164 Buffalo Bill and the White Queen 165 Buffalo Bill's Yellow Guardian

166 Buffalo Bill's Double "B" Brand

161 Buffalo Bill's Crow Scouts

(last number of Great Western)

## by Ralph F. Cummings

E. Marvin Smith says he read in "Time" mag that Street & Smith has discontinued the Shadow, Western Story, etc. Guess this is going to be a "Woman's World" after all. never dreamed S & S would ever stop publishing real "he man stuff." He wants to know if there will be another publisher that will take it over, or not? S & S will publish 3 womens mags hereafter. More money and a larger circulation in 'em.

Herman Brauner sends his apology for not answering a lot of letters sooner than he did, as he's been down in Florida, so he'll answer all letters hereafter.

Clarence H. Smith, 277 West Ave., Patchogue, N. Y., died Sept. 22, 1949. Stanley A. Pachon, 627 Hayes St., Bethlehem, Pa. wants information on the first and last numbers, and dates of "Weekly Novelette," "Home Circle," "Gleason's Pictorial Line of Battleship," and "Lowell's Leather Clad

Tales."

L. C. Skinner, 36 Chaplin St., Pawtucket, R. I., had a shock over a year ago, and not one member has been to see him. A fine lot of brothers we are, myself included, for I live only about 25 miles from him, and I've no excuse, so will someone pay our sick brother a visit? I'm planning on going down there in a day or two, so I'll break the ice, Pards. I ought to be ashamed of myself.

Charles F. Heartman, 421 So. Seguin Ave., New Braunfels, Texas. has 8 vols. of Gleason's Pictorial magazines for sale, all in nice condition, so be sure to write to him about them.

James W. Martin of San Francisco, Calif., visited our Bro. Frisco Bert Couch, and says what a collection, not only novels, but a nice lot of cloth books on the early western history, and other items.

Stanley Pachon says the Library of Congress at Washington, D. C., has 19,543 dime novels in their collection.

Mr. and Mrs. Lou Kohrt of 3749 Robinhood St., Houston, Texas, was here May 17th, and had quite a time finding Fisherville. (Anyone coming this way, I live in Worcester County, and Fisherville belongs to Grafton, Mass. If you come by bus, take a No. 23, Worcester Street Railway Co., bus at Worcester, and ask the driver to let you off at Pleasant St., Saundersville, a 25c ride from Worcester, and ask any one where I live. If you come by automobile, take route 122A to above address.) Lou visited Fred Lee on his way up, and after he left here, he went to see Ray Caldwell, but he wasn't home, but he did meet Carl Linville. They had a fine trip and a fine time too, such as it was. Lou has 3

complete years of the N. Y. Ledger in the early 1860's to sell for \$10.00 or will trade. All in nice condition.

George S. Barton, 15 Bloomfield St., Lexington 73, Mass. is in the New England Baptist Hospital of Boston, with a very bad foot injury.

Prof. Johannsen says his two books on the House of Beadle won't be out now, before fall, as he has to put some more in, to fill up the books.

"Beagle Scented Murder," by Frank Gruber was published in 3 novels in one book, the others are "The Sleeping Sphinx" and "Death of a Doll," but "Beagle Scented Murder" is really the name of "Market for Murder," that mentions the various old novels in it, and Charles Bragin, etc. It was published by the Detective Book Club, Walter J. Black, New York, N. Y. Price \$1.98 in 1947. Clyde Wakefield sent in the information.

Railroad Avenue, Great Stories and Legends of American Railroading, by Freeman H. Hubbard. 1945. Published by Whittlesey House, McGraw-Hill Book Co., Inc. New York and London, has a lot of fine stuff in it, also picture and reading on the James Boys and their families and others. Very interesting and worthy of anyones collection.

## OLIVER OPTIC Centenary of His Birth Recalls This

Centenary of His Birth Recalls This Purveyor of Boys' Stories

Remember the time when an Oliver Optic book kept you out of bed at nights or when you awoke early in the morning eager for an added opportunity to follow the adventures of "Young America Abroad" or to read more of the martial deeds of the gallant heroes of the Blue and Grey series? You shared the delight of reading the works of one of the most popular writers of boys' books America has ever known.

Oliver Optic's centenary fell on Sunday, and although his works are now left largely on the shelf, preference being given to the stories of later writers which register the introduction of modern mechanisms and scientific discoveries in the field of adventure, the boy readers of the past are not likely to forget his name. More than a hundred books were written by him and about eight hundred stories,

while for years "Our Boys and Girls," the weekly magazine for juvenile readers, founded by him in 1867, contained articles and stories from his pen.

His aim, he once said, was to furnish interesting and exciting tales that would hold the attention of the young people and yet never entrap them into sympathy with evil doers or to encourage in them admiration for bold or lawless acts. "I have never made a hero," he said, "whose moral character or whose lack of high aims could mislead the young reader." So, although stylists frowned upon him, his works never required the activities of a literary or moral censor and he gave a thrill without an offense.

His nom de plume was far better known than his real name, William Taylor Adams, although the Adams House, on Washington street, in Boston, attests the fact that he and his father. Laban Adams, the former owner of the Lamb Tavern that occupied that site at an earlier date, had been concerned in founding that hostelry, his father also running the Village Hotel at Medway, where "Oliver Optic" was born in 1822. Becoming a school teacher at eighteen, he devoted the first twenty-five years of his active life to teaching, followed it with ten years service on the Boston school board and, for a term, represented the Dorchester district in the General Assembly of Massachusetts.

But literature gradually claimed his attention. Under nom de plumes such as Irving Brown, Clingham Hunter, M.D., the Old Stager, A Retired Attorney and Man of the World, he produced many short stories and novelettes of romance and adventure, a trip to the South, made shortly after the Mexican War, furnishing the inspiration for his first book, "Hatchie, the Guardian Slave," which had New Orleans as its setting, and which, published over the name of Warren T. Ashton, was sold for \$37.50. His knowledge of boys, gained in the schoolroom and on the athletic field, turned his attention to the production of literature for boys. There, he became a pioneer in the production of lively, wholesome stories of adventure, the name Optic being adopted after seeing a play in which a character of that name appeared and Oliver added simply because of its alliterative attraction.

Oliver Optic soon became almost a household word and his magazine, "Our Boys and Girls," was known equally well as "Oliver Optic's." Julia Ward Howe, Louise Chandler Moulton, Jane G. Austin, "Sophie May," Amanda M. Douglass, Fitz Hugh Ludlow, John Hay, then Secretary of the Legation at Paris, George M. Boker, of this city, and other writers of merit joined in contributions to the Optic weekly, whose feature was a chapter of fiction by its editor and an informative editorial of educational or moral value.

Few of his boy readers knew that when he wrote of foreign lands he spoke from first-hand observation, for a dozen trips abroad were made in search of material, and, after he had passed the age of seventy he set out on a world journey for fresh material for his "All-Over-The-World Series." When he died, in 1897, at the old house on Dorchester Heights, where he had resided for nearly a half-century, he was respected as one of Boston's best-known writers, even though his early efforts to interest the boys of that city with breezy combinations of fact and fiction had been looked upon as ephemeral literature of a poor sort.

Mary Ann Evans wrote under the pen name of George Elliot, some of her works were Adam Bede, Silas Marner and others.

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SANDS, J.-Frank Powderhorn (Lond. 1881)

STODDARD, W. O.—The Red Patroit (1st edn.), The Wreck of the Sea Lion (1st edn.)

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